

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Hovey: Bill To Require Insurance Coverage for Infertility Treatment Gains Final Legislative Approval



The state House of Representatives today gave final legislative approval to a bill originally sponsored by state Representative DebraLee Hovey that would require health insurance coverage for medically necessary infertility diagnosis and treatment expenses.

“This legislation will give new hope to couples who have been unable to conceive and cannot afford the high cost of infertility treatments,” said Representative Hovey, R-112th District. “While medical science has made it possible for women who 20 or 30 years ago would have remained childless to conceive, infertility treatment continues to be unaffordable for many couples because their health insurers do not provide coverage for the procedures.”

“Although the measure requires health insurers to provide coverage for infertility treatment for women who have been unable to conceive or sustain a pregnancy during a one-year period, it also allows insurers to limit coverage for more complex procedures to women who have used less expensive and medically viable treatments or procedures covered under the policy but still remain infertile. However, it also stipulates that coverage cannot be denied if a woman forgoes a particular treatment when her doctor determines that it is unlikely to be successful,” Representative Hovey said.

“This measure strikes the right balance between the needs of couples who need specialized infertility treatment to conceive and insurers concerned about being required to cover procedures that are not medically necessary. It also permits individuals and religious employers to exclude infertility coverage if it is contrary to their religious beliefs,” Representative Hovey said. “This legislation will enable desperate couples who have exhausted conventional infertility treatments to have access to advanced procedures that will significantly improve their chances of conceiving a child.”

The legislation (Senate Bill 508), which was approved by the state Senate May 31st, was sent on to Governor M. Jodi Rell to be signed into law.